

RESPONSE/ARGUMENTS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-29 remain pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-10, 12-20, and 21-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Van Huben et al. ("Van Huben"). The Examiner states:

As to claim 2, Van Huben et al. (hereinafter referred to as Van Huben) discloses a method as claimed by applicant, comprising: defining library functions in a database system, including providing a checkout function to lock at least one cell in a managed database table of the database system [e.g., col. 5, lines 19-54]; and utilizing the library control functions via structured query language statements to ensure data integrity during accessing of complex data objects comprising Opaque data types in the database system [e.g., col. 22, lines 1-42].

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

The present invention provides aspects for allowing update and edit control over an extended time period in a database system. Library control functions are defined in a database system, including providing a checkout function to lock at least one cell in a managed database table of the database system. The library control functions are utilized via structured query language statements to ensure data integrity during accessing of complex data objects comprising opaque data types in the database system. With the present invention, data integrity of opaque data types in a database system is more readily assured. The present invention advantageously employs functions that allow update and edit control to be realized for opaque data types in a straightforward and efficient manner. These functions further allow serialization of work on complex data types, including workflow document data types.

The cited art of Van Huben provides a data management system as a plurality of data managers in one or more layers of a layered architecture. In Van Huben, all objects residing in the data management system are classified according to the five attributes of package, variance, level, filetype, and version. While Van Huben does refer to the ability to use different types of locks on data objects in the data management system, Applicant respectfully submits that Van Huben fails to teach or suggest defining library control functions in a database system, as recited by the Applicant.

In Van Huben, a control repository is used to manage data repositories, including managing locks on data objects. A separate control repository access layer provides functions to extract, add, modify, or delete information from the control repository. (col. 17, lines 50-53) All repository access functions are implemented as transactions constructed using a generic structure. (col. 23, lines 19-22) The generic structure of the access functions in Van Huben teaches away from the defining of functions specific to a database system to control access to data stored in the database system. In fact, Van Huben provides evidence that this generic structure does not define functions in a database system, because Van Huben teaches the need to employ command translators in order to map the generic control repository transactions into any required command interface needed to interact with the control repository, including control repositories provided as databases (col. 24, lines 1-9; col. 6, line 61 - col. 7, line 3).

With this lack of teaching or suggesting the defining of functions in a database system by Van Huben, Applicant respectfully submits that there is nothing to teach or suggest the defining of library control functions in a database system, including providing a checkout function to lock at least one cell in a managed database table of the database system, as recited in independent claims 2, 12, and 22. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion of then utilizing the library control functions via structured

query language statements to ensure data integrity during accessing of complex data objects comprising opaque data types in the database system, as further recited in these claims. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that independent claims 2, 12, and 22 are allowable over the cited art. In addition, their respective dependent claims, 3-10, 13-20, and 23-29, are respectfully submitted as allowable for at least those reasons stated hereinabove by including the features of one of the independent claims while adding further features.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

With regard to the double patenting rejection of claims 2, 12, and 22, Applicant respectfully disagrees that claims 2, 12, and 22 "merely repeat the features of claims 1-3 of US Patent No. 6,654,747 and claims 1, 5-6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,966,707 with fewer limitations," as asserted by the Examiner. Further, Applicant respectfully defers submission of a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection until such time deemed appropriate upon allowance of claims 2, 12, and 22.

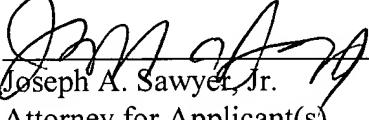
Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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